

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 00258 141203Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
-----015811 141205Z /13

R 141140Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0204  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0258

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NA, PINT, PDEV  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: STEYN POSTPONES MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

1. THE LOCAL PRESS OF JANUARY 13 REPORTS THAT NAMIBIAN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, JUSTICE STEYN, HAS POSTPONED FOR ONE YEAR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (I.E., IN THE WHITE AREAS) THAT WERE DUE TO BE HELD ON MARCH 8. STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS BEING HELD THIS YEAR FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION FOR NAMIBIA. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT SPECULATES THAT THE POSTPONEMENT MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN MEANT TO AVERT A CLASH AT THE POLLS BETWEEN DIRK MUDGE'S REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE DIE HARDS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY.

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PAGE 02     PRETOR 00258 141203Z

2. COMMENT: HOLDING A WHITES-ONLY ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH THE SAG'S COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE ELECTIONS AND THUS WOULD HAVE DETRACTED FROM THE NON-APARTHEID AURA THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO PROVIDE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WE ALSO THINK, AS THE PRESS SUGGESTS, THE SAG WISHED

TO AVOID A DEMONSTRATION AT THIS TIME OF DIVISIONS IN  
THE WHITE COMMUNITY. BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION CANCELLATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR00258  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014